

**A DISCOURSE STUDY ON WOMEN-FOCUSED FACEBOOK COMMUNITIES IN  
NIGERIA**

**BY**

**ANAKE, SCHOLASTICA ANDOKIE  
18PBC01782**

**NOVEMBER, 2020.**

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NIGERIA**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND  
GENERAL STUDIES, SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, COLLEGE OF  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN  
STATE. IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF  
THE MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) DEGREE IN ENGLISH (LANGUAGE)**

**NOVEMBER, 2020.**

## ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Masters of Arts Degree in English Language in the Department of Languages and General Studies, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State.

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Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies

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*Signature and Date*

## CERTIFICATION

We certify that **Anake, Scholastica Andokie** with matriculation number, **18PBCO1782**, of the Department of Languages and General Studies, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University carried out this research titled “**A Discourse Study on Women-Focused Facebook Communities in Nigeria**”. This research has been read and approved as meeting part of the requirements for the award of Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in English (Language).

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God, who is the Alpha and Omega of this research and my unborn children.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## ABSTRACT

The development in information computer technology (ICT) and computer-mediated communication (CMC) has led to a myriad of activities on the Internet. These activities, whether negative or positive, are largely mediated by the use of language, also known as discourse. There are not many Nigerian studies that examine women's discourse online. Therefore, this study analyses discourse in two women-only and women-focused Facebook communities — *AsktheGynaecologist* and *Womanhood with Olori Ajayi*. This study purposed to highlight the positive engagements that exist in such groups. Consequently, the objectives of this study are to identify the discursive contents of the interactions in *AsktheGynaecologist* and *Womanhood with Olori Ajayi* Facebook communities; to describe the discourse patterns and strategies of the interactions in the selected communities, and to highlight socio-cultural intertextual relations in the discourses that take place within the selected communities. The objectives are examined methodically by a qualitative-descriptive method of analysis and a hundred (100) posts were purposively selected in these groups as data for analysis. The data are analysed through the appraisal framework of attitude, engagement and gradation which complement the Positive Discourse Analysis (PDA) approach. Subsequently, the findings from the analysis and discussion of data highlight the discursive contents of the group, comprising themes such as infertility/fertility, women health issues/prenatal care, and financial/business empowerment, all of which are intertextually connected to the Nigerian woman's socio-cultural experiences. These themes are negotiated using appraisal resources (attitude, engagement, and gradation appraisal resources), evidentiality, capitalisation and use of exclamation marks, religious allusions, metaphor, code-mixing, and direct questions. This study concludes that all of these resources and strategies reinforce positivity, solidarity, satisfaction, security, valuation, social esteem, tenacity, motivation/inclination for goodwill, and social co-existence within the groups.